

Diagnosis and Treatment of Chest Pain and Acute Coronary Syndrome (ACS)

Emergency Intervention Algorithm

Indications and Relative Contraindications for Thrombolysis:

Indications

1. ST↑ in greater than or equal to 2 contiguous leads; greater than or equal to 1mm in limb leads, or
 • greater than or equal to 2 mm in precordial leads, or
 • new or presumably new LBBB; ST segment depression of greater than or equal to 2 mm in V₁V₂ (true posterior infarction), and
2. Anginal chest pain greater than 30 minutes but less than 12 hours unrelieved with NTG SL

Absolute Contraindications

1. Previous hemorrhagic stroke at any time; other strokes or cerebrovascular events within one year
2. Known intracranial neoplasm
3. Active internal bleeding (does not include menses)
4. Suspected aortic dissection

Relative Contraindications

1. Severe uncontrolled hypertension on presentation (greater than 180/110 mmHg)
2. History of prior cerebrovascular accident or known intracerebral pathology not covered in above absolute contraindications
3. Current use of anticoagulants in therapeutic doses (INR greater than or equal to 2.0-3.0); known bleeding diathesis
4. Recent trauma (including head trauma) within 2-4 weeks
5. Major surgery in past 3-6 months
6. Noncompressible vascular punctures
7. Recent internal bleeding
8. For streptokinase/anistreplase: prior exposure (especially within 5 days - 2 years) or prior allergic reaction
9. Pregnancy
10. Active peptic ulcer
11. History of chronic hypertension

